

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 9 and 12 and add new Claims 13 and 14 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer apparatus for transferring a micro-volume of liquid, said apparatus having a plurality of units, each unit comprising:

a liquid containing section for containing liquid;

a liquid introducing section for introducing liquid into said liquid containing section; and

a liquid leading out section for leading out the liquid introduced into said liquid containing section,

wherein said liquid introducing section of one a first unit and said liquid leading out section of another a second unit are connected, with each liquid leading out section of each unit having energy application means for applying energy for ejecting the liquid,
and

wherein each said unit can be connected to and disconnected from the liquid transfer apparatus in a cassette-like manner.

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least either said liquid introducing section or said liquid leading out section of said first unit has a sealing material for maintaining a liquid-tightness when it is connected to said

liquid leading out section or said liquid introducing section, ~~whichever appropriate;~~ of another
~~liquid transfer apparatus~~ said second unit.

3. (Previously Presented) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said liquid containing section includes processing means for heating, condensing, agitating, mixing or causing a chemical or biochemical reaction of the liquid introduced from said liquid introducing section.

4. (Previously Presented) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said liquid leading out section has a check valve.

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A liquid transfer according to claim 1, wherein said liquid containing section has a plurality of liquid introducing sections, and further comprising means for mixing a first liquid introduced from one of said liquid introducing sections and a second liquid introduced from another one of said liquid introducing sections.

Claims 7 and 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising analyzing means for analyzing a specific component contained in ~~the a~~ mixture solution mixed by said mixing means.

10. (Previously Presented) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said analyzing means is detection means for detecting the specific component.

Claim 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a connection/disconnection section for connecting ~~with another~~ each said unit together in a cassette-like manner.

13. (New) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said energy application means comprises a thermal jet system or a piezo jet system.

14. (New) A liquid transfer apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said connection/disconnection section includes a first member having a recess on said first unit and a second member having a projection on said second unit, with the projection to be received in the recess of said first unit in a cassette-like manner.